



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
JULIE SECONTINE
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

**“PROPOSED” MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H
Lansing, MI 48910
August 9, 2016
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Vice Chairperson Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Terrence Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Julie Secontine, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joel Hondorp, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Association

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Daniel Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary
TJ Richardson, Region 2 Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Greg Kowalski, Wayne County Community College District
Andy Steeby, Wayne County Community College District
Matthew Majestic, Oakland Community College
Thomas J. Tyler, Detroit Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Fire Department
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Justin Holmes, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Michael McLeieer, Olivet Fire Department
Kevin Sehlmeier, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Edward Blight, Mundy Township Fire Department
Justin Holmes, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Thea Dornbush, Gerald R Ford Airport Fire Department
Martin Erskine, Battle Creek Fire Department
Dennis Firment, Farmington Hills Fire Department
Quincy Jones, Battle Creek Fire Department
Greg Janik, Saugatuck Township Fire Department

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. A quorum was determined present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16-08-001

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16-08-002

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blackmer and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the June 14, 2016, regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Justin Holmes, Grand Rapids Fire Department will be hosting a Shaping the Future class, through the National Fire Academy. Accepting up to 30 students, the course is open to anyone interested and will be held October 1-2, 2016.

Matthew Majestic, Oakland Community College, has received approval for Pro-Board accreditation. The next fire fighter course will be starting after Labor Day. Congratulations was extended from the Councilmembers.

5. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Committee and Subcommittee

The Committee for Inclusive and Positive Change in the fire service will hold the first meeting this Thursday. If anyone wishes to have an issue added to the agenda, please notify State Fire Marshal Secontine via email.

Fire Fighter Training Division

Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) Administration has had discussion in regards to training dollars and the distribution of funds being divided by individual fire department. State Fire Marshal Secontine has suggested taking the training dollars and dividing the funds by Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) divisions. Less than 50% of fire departments are currently MABAS divisions. This means of distribution would be a good catalyst to bring all departments on board with MABAS. LARA was receptive to this suggestion.

MABAS

There has been recent conversation with the fire service operate under a statewide MABAS umbrella division, similar to the State of Illinois. Essentially this would remove the Fire Service (the Firefighters Training Council and Firefighter's Training Division) from State government. The concept then would permit the State to enter into a contractual agreement with MABAS (like Illinois) for fire service operations and training. There also have been initial discussions with state legislators regarding establishing a committee in the legislature devoted to the fire service.

MABAS is already vetting Special Operations teams for NIMS compliance for activation purposes. An explanation was provided with regard to the logistics.

Regional Training Centers

A concept was introduced in creating 2 regional training centers to serve the fire service training needs in the State of Michigan, should the fire service come under the MABAS umbrella.

NFIRS

State Fire Marshal Secontine has been working diligently with Rhonda Howard to update all NFIRS information as it is very out of date. Assistance was requested from the Council and the public to make sure proper documentation is recorded in the NFIRS system. It is imperative that all information is recorded in the NFIRS system. Chief's contact information is also imperative, as that will be an essential means of communication by State Fire Marshal Secontine.

Pro Board Certification and Electronic Testing

Pro Board certification and electronic testing are on hold due to a draft of a Bill that has been created by the Fire Coalition, and Senator Stamas regarding training.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

After attending the National ADA conference and consulting with experts from the Department of Justice, ADA requests for readers will be received and considered on a case by case basis. A reader will not be provided for the HazMat portion of the test. All requests will be handled by State Fire Marshal Secontine.

Rules Update

The public hearing was held on July 25, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Chairperson James, TJ Richardson and BreeAnn Hooker were in attendance. There were no witnesses present and Chairperson James read the script. The Joint Committee of Administrative Rules (JCAR) agency report is near completion. The JCAR report will then be forwarded to Liz Arasim with Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) with a strike-bold copy and a no strike-bold copy of the final rules, scanned copies of the public hearing notices, newspaper affidavits and a copy of the transcript of the public hearing. If approved, Ms. Arasim will submit the documents to JCAR. If approved, JCAR will submit the rule set for consideration to the Joint Committee. Ms. Arasim will also prepare the certificate of adoption. Once the JCAR review days have been completed, ORR and Legislative Services Bureau (LSB) will formally certify the rules. ORR will then file the rules and all of the required documents to the Office of the Great Seal in the Secretary of State's Office.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom requested clarification with regard to how training funds would be divided if the training funds are distributed through the MABAS Divisions. Discussion was had and allocations would still be determined under the funding formula until and unless the statute is amended. Further discussion ensued over concern that this process could negatively impact the smaller communities. Pursuant to the funding formula, the MABAS division will

decide how their allocation is spent on training within their divisions. All policies, procedures and processes are open for discussion, because the suggested changes are still in a concept phase at this time. The Fire Marshal seeks to employ best practices across the board, to be determined collectively. Funding issues were then discussed and it was reported that currently there are no fees or dues to join MABAS (to create a MABAS division). The fire service is currently relying on safety fees collected from the sale of fireworks to fund their training. There are currently 5 pending bills to repeal or amend the Fireworks Safety Act. A solid funding mechanism for training at the state level is a priority.

6. Committee Reports – Vice Chairperson Blomstrom

Curriculum Committee

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom went over the Curriculum Committee meeting main points from the July 13th meeting to review the Fire Fighter I and II course plan for the new format of 50, 150 and 200 question exams. TJ Richardson was able to print out examples of the exam and TJ should be contacted if there any questions. The format of the exam was also reviewed, as well as the current online content of courses. Current online content of courses and their relevancy were reviewed and will be discussed under old business. Many course curriculums have not been updated for years. Instructor Guide and Administrative Manual (IGAM)/Instructors manual will soon be posted on the BFS website for instructor access.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Fire Fighter Training Division Course Curriculum and Requirements

A request was made by council and the curriculum committee to provide a list of course codes, when a Train the Trainer is required, whether it is council authorized curriculum, and the authorization dates. It was also suggested that this this report indicate when the last time and how many times the course was ran.

Recommendations

Adoption of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Leadership/Accountability/Courage/Knowledge (LACK) Class

The LACK class expands above and beyond that to the Company Officer level and is geared toward Company Officer development. If adopted, LACK would be a state course. This course requires a third party authorization for the Instructors.

16-08-003

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to adopt the LACK class as a training council adopted course. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Elimination and Deactivation of Courses from the Course Menu

The following courses were recommended to be deactivated and eliminated:

D01A-Conducting Basic Fire Prevention Inspections

D02A-Introduction to Fire Inspection Principles

F07A-IRHMI: BC

L01A-Building Construction: Combustible

L02A-Building Construction: Noncombustible

L09A-Incident Command High Rise Operations

L14A-Incident Command for Multi Casualty Incidents

L21A-Pipeline Emergencies

All Courses related to the N series, Emergency Response to Terrorism series.

The courses will be inactivated in SMOKE but not deleted.

16-08-004

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Blackmer to eliminate or deactivate the courses as read earlier. **MOTION CARRIES.**

State Fire Marshal Secontine received the inquiry of why State Training Coordinators are evaluating students in Instructor I, who have never taken Instructor I. This item will be placed on the next agenda.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Courage to be Safe Class

Kevin Sehlmeier

Kevin Sehlmeier discussed the purpose for the course referred to as "Everybody Goes Home". Mr. Sehlmeier requested that the course name be changed from "Everyone Goes Home" to "Courage to be Safe", based on the national curriculum and Fire Hero Learning Network. The Fire Hero Learning Network is going to become the clearing house for all instructors. All instructors are asked to set up an account with them, and to fill out an application. In order for the Network to receive funding, they have to report data on the number of trainings that have been provided. Mr. Sehlmeier asked the Council to consider making "Courage to be Safe" a part of every fire fighter academy. There will be a Train the Trainer next Tuesday in Farmington Hills at 10:00 a.m.

Fire Fighter Training Division staff will make the name change in SMOKE.

Instructor Orientation/Instructor I

State Fire Marshal

State Fire Marshal Secontine asked if the Instructor Orientation could be combined with any other course rather than a course that is taught separately. Educational Methodology and Instructor Orientation are required to teach in the fire academy. There are MIOSHA Part 74 and documentation issues resulting in making the course longer. Referred to the Curriculum Committee for discussion and possibly defer the teaching of the Instructor Orientation to the Training Coordinators.

Michigan Fire & Life Safety Educator Coalition Presentation

Michael McLeieer

Michael McLeieer gave a presentation for the Michigan Fire & Life Safety Educator Coalition. The program's mission is to develop, promote and manage a sustainable and comprehensive risk reduction program for Michigan's citizens and visitors with the primary goal of preserving life, reducing fatalities, mitigating emergencies. The mission will result in changing behaviors thus protecting high risk populations across the State of Michigan. The recommendation is made to council to adopt the Michigan Fire & Life Safety Educator Coalition.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom requests that Mr. McLeieer have the item on the agenda for the next curriculum committee meeting.

Non-SMOKE County Training Fund Application

Emotional Wellness and Career Survival & Burnout

After review of the application, the consensus is that the applicant appear before the committee to explain the request and provide further clarification. State Fire Marshal Secontine will send the invite to Adam Munro to the next council meeting.

Emergency Response Liability & Scene Safety & Traffic Control

16-08-005

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to recommend to the State Fire Marshal to approve the request from Arenac County for funds for the Emergency Response Liability & Scene Safety & Traffic Control course. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Crisis Intervention and Peer Support

16-08-006

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Tackett and seconded by Councilperson Blackmer to recommend to the State Fire Marshal to approve the request from Iron County Fire Fighters Association for the funds for the Crisis Intervention and Peer Support course. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Management and Leadership Studies

After review of the application, the consensus is that the applicant appear before the committee to explain the request and provide further clarification. State Fire Marshal Secontine will send the invite to Anthony Kowalski to the next council meeting.

Funding for Fire Academies/Fiscal Year 2017 Training Funds

Don Munn

Don Munn did not attend and will be notified by State Fire Marshal Secontine that his request was on the agenda.

Multiple Curricula

State Fire Marshal

A constituent is concerned about the use of multiple curricula, as well as members of the Council having relationships with the publishing companies, specifically Jones & Bartlett. The Council has approved the multiple curricula the constituent explained that the County's firefighters now have a much higher failure rate. Explanation was given as to why there are multiple curricula, as long as the Instructors are teaching to the objectives, there shouldn't be an issue with which book is used. An NFPA test bank is where the test questions come from and the questions are verified from each textbook.

In addition, LXR will no longer be supporting the answer sheets. The test bank is still valid, it's the support of the bubble forms that is being eliminated.

Senator Stamas' Bill

State Fire Marshal Secontine provided a copy of draft 4 of a bill for the Council's review. Various issues with the bill were discussed. Senator Stamas has not yet introduced the bill, but may be introducing the bill in the lame duck session.

9. Council Comment

Councilperson Pettinger is very interested in the Courage to be Safe and LACK programs and made inquiry about the date of the next Train the Trainer, which will be October 29th at the Instructor's Conference.

State Fire Marshal extends the willingness to help fill the Shaping the Future class to Justin Holmes.

Councilperson Tackett supports MABAS and feels it is an important group. Also, Councilperson Tackett wanted it made clear and on record that the Council did not write Senator Stamas' bill and has no influence on the legislation.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom requested that information be provided to the recording secretary for Traverse City conference accommodations. After discussing the change of the awards schedule, the Council meeting will be moved to 1:30 p.m.

Chairperson James extends his gratitude to the public.

10. Adjournment

16-08-007

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES.** The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

October 28, 2016 @ 1:30 p.m.

Location:

Park Place Hotel; 300 E. State Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

APPROVED:

Timothy James
Chairperson

Fire Fighter Training Division Representative

Councilperson